

# School Support Programs

## Exceptional Student Services

### Other Health Impairments

#### **What are Other Health Impairments?**

Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) §15-761(20) state: " 'Other health impairments' means limited strength, vitality or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, due to chronic or acute health problems which adversely affect a pupil's educational performance."

Additionally, in the implementing regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA '97) Amendments, 34 CFR 300.7(c)(9), states that "...the limited alertness with respect to the educational environment..."

- (i) is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever, and sickle cell anemia; and
- (ii) adversely affects a child's educational performance."

Other Health Impairments (OHI) refer to a variety of health problems that dictate the need for special education services. In addition to the health problems noted above, OHI may also include convulsive disorders, cystic fibrosis, Tourette Syndrome, AIDS, asthma, cancer, or any other chronic or acute health problem provided that the pupil's educational performance is adversely affected.

A child may be determined by a Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MET) to have OHI if a health problem, such as those listed above, limits the student's strength, vitality, or alertness; adversely affects the student's educational development; and the student needs special education and related services in order to make educational progress.

The implementing regulations for the IDEA Amendments of '97 require that Assistive Technology (AT) services be considered during the comprehensive evaluation process. A child with OHI may benefit from environmental or curriculum modifications, low-technology items to high-technology devices.

If a child with a health problem is not eligible for special education and related services under IDEA '97, he/she may still qualify as having a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If the child does not qualify under Section 504, the parents may request that the child be considered for eligibility under the district's policies for pupils with chronic health problems under ARS §15-346.

#### **How Common are Other Health Impairments?**

During the 2001-02 school year, 2,330 students in Arizona were classified under Other Health Impairments and received special education services. This number represents approximately 0.25 percent of the 922,280 students enrolled in Arizona's public schools as of October 1, 2002.

#### **What Effect Do Other Health Impairments Have on a Child?**

Some children have no restrictions on what they can do and learn. Others may require intensive medical care, be extremely limited in their activities, and need educational help. Sometimes a child can be too weak to attend school regularly or lacks the energy or stamina to remain in class long enough to learn. Some illnesses or medications can affect a child's attention and mood, making it difficult for the child to concentrate. Other children may be considered chronic-ally ill, but do not need special education or related services.

## Resources

### **Books**

Smith, Mark (1997). *Pay Attention, Slosh*. Chicago, Ill: Albert Whitman & Co.

Alexander-Roberts, Colleen. (1995). *ADHD and Teens: A Parent's Guide to Making it Through the Tough Years*. Taylor Publishing.

Miller, N. B. & Sammons, C. C. (1999). *Every-body's Different: Understanding & Changing our Reactions to Disabilities*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing.

Dennis, Ann & Buttner, Thom. (1998) *Taming the Diabetes Dragon*. Valley Park, MO: JayJo Books

Carter, Alden R. (1996). *I'm Tougher Than Asthma*. Chicago, Ill: Albert Whitman & Co.

### **Organizations/Hotlines/Web Sites**

American Diabetes Association of Arizona

<http://www.diabetes.org/>

1825 N. 23rd Ave., Suite # 222, Phoenix, AZ 85021-4961; 602-995-1344 or 800-342-2383

American Heart Association

[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

800-242-1793

Arizona Asthma and Allergy Institute

602-843-2991

Arizona Consortium for Children with Chronic Illness

2101 E. Broadway, Suite # 30, Tempe, AZ 85282; 480-557-8445

Arthritis Foundation

<http://www.arthritis.org/>

Tucson: 616 N. Country Club, Tucson, AZ 85716; 520-917-7070

Phoenix: 1313 E. Osborn Road, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85014; 602-264-7679; 800-477-7679

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)

<http://www.aafa.org/>

1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20036; Ph 202.466.7643; Fax 202.466.8940

Asthma Foundation of Southern Arizona

2600 N. Wyatt Dr., Tucson, AZ 85712; 520-323-6046

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

<http://www.cff.org/>

3800 N. Central Ave., Suite 700, Phoenix, AZ 85012; 602-224-0432

EAPN (Enhancing Arizona's Parent Networks)

<http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/eapn>

Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona

<http://www.efa.org/arizona>

P.O. Box 25084, Phoenix, AZ 85002; 602-406-3581

ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education

<http://www.ericec.org/>

1110 W. Glebe Rd., Suite # 300, Arlington, VA 22201; 800-328-0272

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

<http://www.modimes.org/>

Phoenix: 1616 E. Indian School Rd., Suite # 200, Phoenix, AZ 85016; 602-266-9933

Tucson: 7290 E. Broadway, Suite. G2, Tucson, AZ 85710; 520-298-5490

Muscular Dystrophy Association

<http://www.mdausa.org/>

10201 S. 51st St., Suite # 170, Phoenix, AZ 85044-5216; 480-496-4530

2900 N. Swan, #201, Tucson, AZ 85712; 520-795-3434

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)

<http://www.nichcy.org/>

P.O. Box 1492, Washington, DC 20013-1492; 800-695-0285

National Organization for Rare Disorders

<http://www.rarediseases.org/>

P.O. Box 8923, New Fairfield, CT 06812-8923; 203-746-6518 or 800-999-6673

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs

<http://www.hs.state.az.us/phs/ocshcn/index.htm>

2927 N. 35<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85017; 602-542-1860 or 800-232-1676

Parent Information Network, Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services

<http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals/>

1535 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007-3280; 602-364-4015 or 800-352-4558

Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona

<http://www.pilotparents.org/>

2600 N. Wyatt Drive, Tucson, AZ 85712; 520-324-3150 or 877-365-7220

Raising Special Kids

<http://www.raisingpecialkids.org/>

4750 N. Black Canyon Hwy. # 101, Phoenix, AZ 85017; 602-242-4366 or 800-237-3007

Tourette Syndrome Association

<http://www.tsa-usa.org/>

42-40 Bell Blvd., Suite # 205, Bayside, NY 11361

3400 E. Speedway, # 118-94, Tucson, AZ 85716; 520-620-2288

Williams Syndrome Association

<http://www.williams-syndrome.org/>

1316 N. Campbell, Suite 16, Royal Oak, MI 48067; 248-541-3630

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